



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1725 | FAX (517) 373.0741

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/mcmanus/

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Contact: Emily Carney
517-373-1725

Senate makes swift progress on JOBS plan

Lansing – Just two weeks after its introduction, the legislative Republicans’ JOBS package has made significant progress in the Senate. JOBS – “Job Opportunities for Business Success” – is the nine-point plan proposed by Senate and House Republicans to jumpstart Michigan’s economy and get Michigan residents back to work.

“We in the Senate recognize that the time to talk about Michigan’s economic woes has passed and the time for action is now,” said Sen. Michelle McManus (R-Lake Leelanau). “The sooner we can get these reforms in place, the sooner we can see improvements in Michigan’s economy and start getting our residents back to work.”

To date, the Michigan Senate has acted on seven of the nine JOBS package components. Action taken includes:

- Both the Senate and the House have now passed legislation to establish a Clean Michigan Initiative revolving loan program to accelerate the cleanup of abandoned brownfields. The bills passed the Senate Nov. 6 and the House Wednesday.
- The Senate Thursday unanimously passed legislation to expedite the 2002 voter-approved Sewer Bond Initiative, allowing communities to start much-needed sewer projects sooner.
- Legislation to revitalize the state’s floundering tool & die industry was introduced Oct. 30. The Senate overwhelmingly passed four bills and three resolutions Thursday. The remaining four bills are currently being reviewed in committee.
- The Senate Commerce and Labor Committee Thursday favorably reported legislation that creates incentives to spur new venture capital investment in Michigan businesses, particularly in the high-tech and life-sciences industries.

(More)

- The Senate Committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Regulatory Reform Thursday favorably reported legislation calling on the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to provide a small-business “czar” and a manufacturing “czar.”
- Legislation to reauthorize and strengthen the Michigan Economic Growth Authority was unanimously passed Wednesday.

The remaining components, legislation that provides a tax incentive for small start-up businesses by exempting them from most taxes during their first two years of operation and legislation to implement forest management changes to protect the environment and create new job opportunities in Michigan’s timber industry, will be introduced soon.

The JOBS plan was introduced Oct. 27 to help create manufacturing jobs, spur new small-business investment for more job opportunities, and provide incentives to expand the state’s slow-moving economy by getting Michigan residents back to work.

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